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Using Collaborations to Improve Campus Recycling

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Utilizing Collaborations to Improve Campus Recycling

James W. Taylor
Coordinator, Environmental Center
Chair, Sustainability Committee

ACUHO-I / APPA
Housing Facilities Conference

Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2015
St. Pete Beach, Fla.



University of North Florida

- Established in 1972
- Campus is approximately 1,200 acres
 - 382 acres are protected from future development
- Total population approximately 19,000
 - ≈16,000 students
 - ≈3,000 faculty and staff
- Approximately 4,000 students live on-campus

UNF Environmental Center

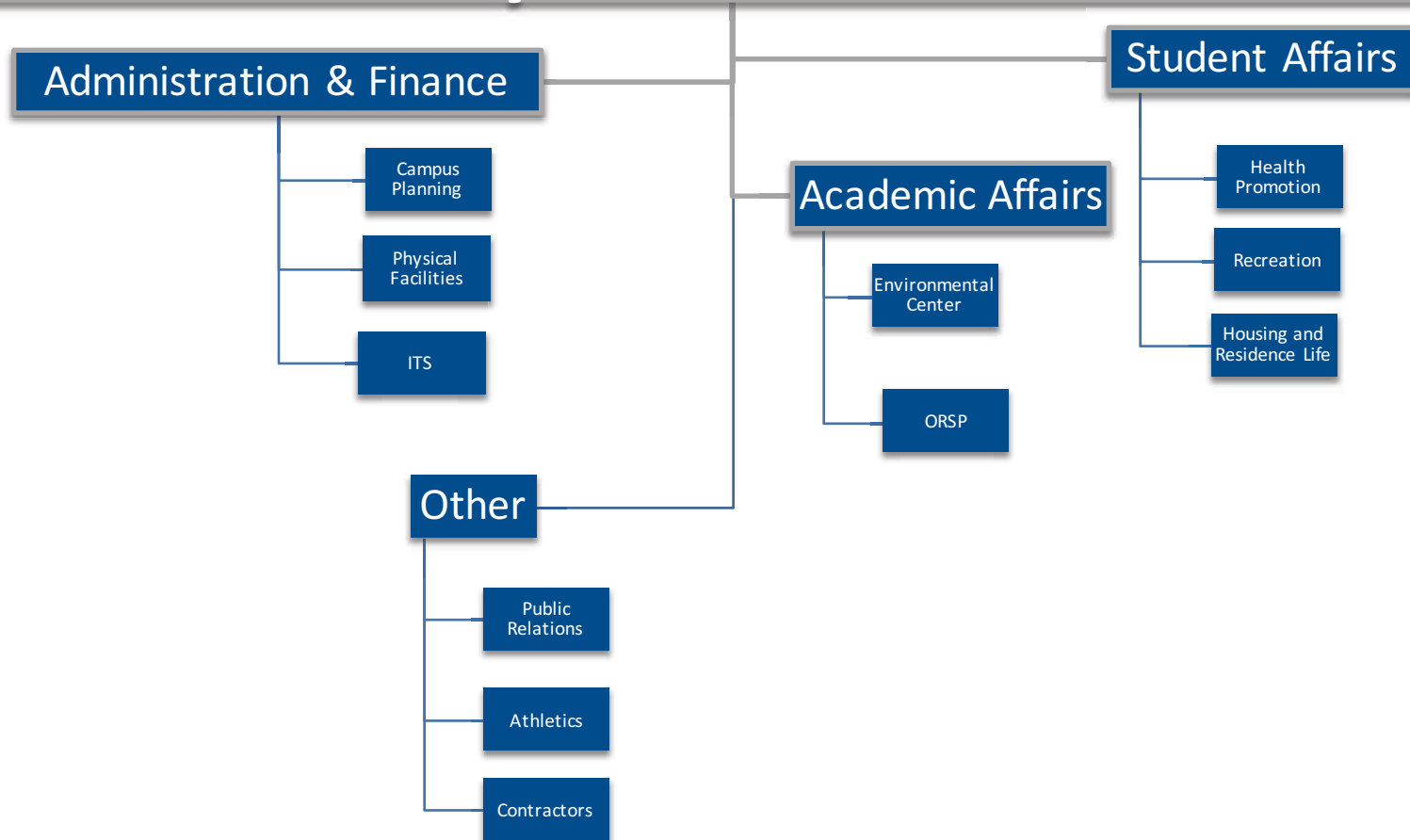
- Established in 2004
 - Founding director Dr. Ray Bowman
- Community-based
- Interdisciplinary by design
 - Serve all students & faculty
- Strategic focus areas
 - St. Johns River
 - Parks and Preserves
 - Sustainability

UNF Environmental Center

- Strong undergraduate student focus
- Engaging students, through academics, to address issues on campus and in the community



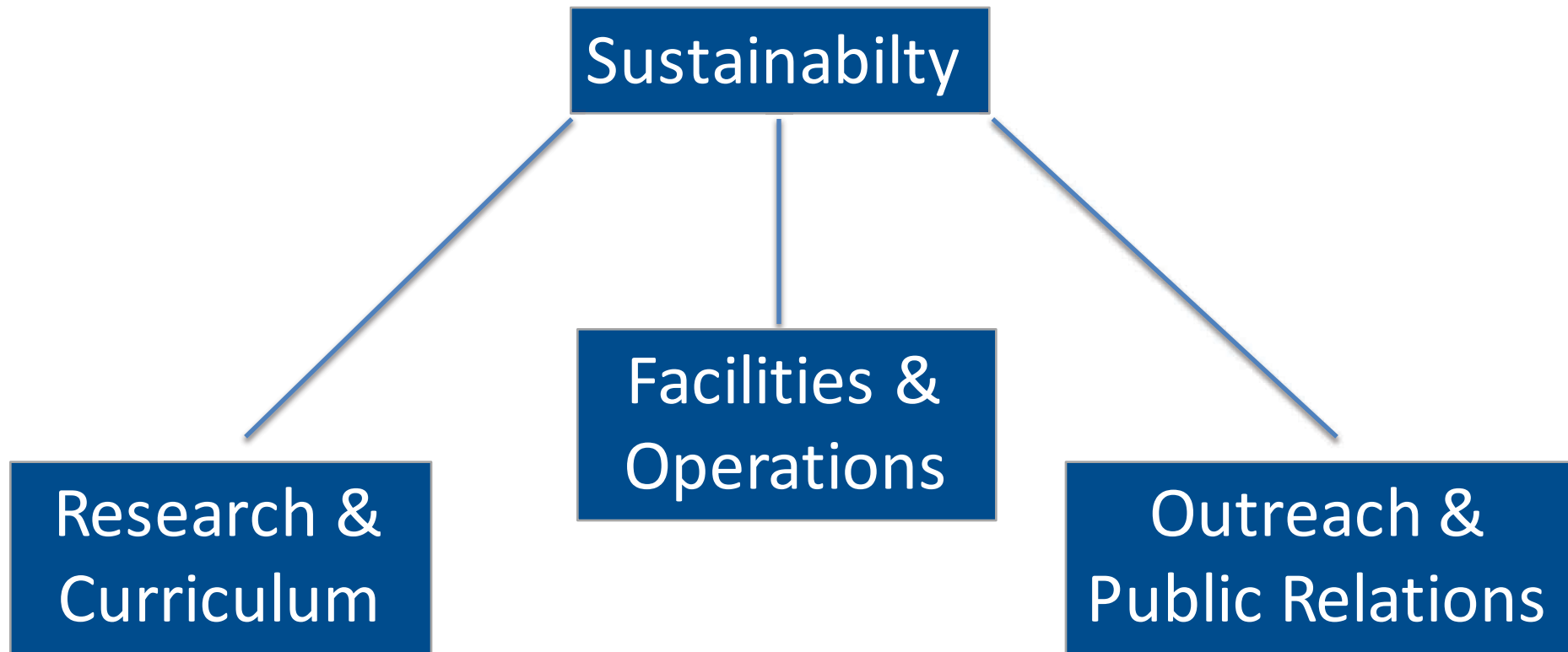
University of North Florida



Collaborations are Critical to Success

- Sustainability issues are
 - Complex
 - Impact multiple departments across divisions
 - Impact students, faculty and staff differently
- Solutions can not be just be top-down
- Nor can they be just grassroots
- The only solution is collaboration

Collaborations are Critical to Success



Sustainability at UNF

- UNF Sustainability Committee
 - Coordinates sustainability efforts at UNF
- Main tasks are:
 - Implementation of the climate action plan
 - Overseeing the Sawmill Slough Preserve
 - Making recommendations to university administration
- Open meetings held monthly

Sawmill Slough Preserve



- 382 acre protected area
 - Formally designated in 2006
- Over five miles of trails, originally built by students and faculty
- Preserve is utilized for:
 - Education
 - Research
 - Recreation

Sawmill Slough Preserve



LEED Buildings

- President Delaney made a public commitment that all new construction will be LEED-certified
- 12 LEED-certified buildings
 - First LEED building in Northeast Florida (2006)
 - 3 gold certified buildings



Climate Action Plan

- Signatory of the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC)



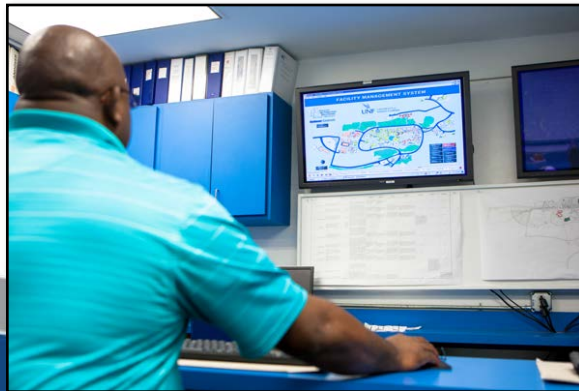
AMERICAN COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY
PRESIDENTS CLIMATE COMMITMENT

Climate Action Plan: Draft CAP

- Phase I: Planting the Seed (2013-2020)
 - Education/community involvement
 - Research
 - Minor infrastructural improvements
 - Secure funding
- Phase II: Growing the Seed (2020-2035)
 - Academics
 - Building retrofits & LEED EBOM
 - Explore renewable energy sources
 - Alternative fuel fleet
- Phase III: Ensuring its Future (2035-2050)
 - Expand renewable energy
 - Purchase offsets
 - Facility improvements
 - Major investments

Energy reduction

- Buildings are re-commissioned on a cycle to ensure they are working efficiently
- UNF deploying LED lighting in parking garages and along roadways.
- Occupancy sensors deployed in most buildings
- Utilize an energy management system



Sustainability Recognition

- STARS Bronze designation (expired Sept. 2015)
- Sierra Club Cool Schools
- Princeton Green Guides
- City of Jacksonville



Let's Talk Trash

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WWW.ANDERTOONS.COM



"Listen, we can talk about politics, religion,
but lay off the trash talk, OK?"

Solid Waste at UNF

- The State of Florida has set a goal for all state entities to reach a 75% diversion rate by 2020
- Annually, UNF generates 2.5 million pounds of solid waste
 - Current recycling rate hovers around 25%
- Two related goals
 - Reduce total waste
 - Increase recycling and composting

UNF Garbage on the Green



Garbage on the Green

- Annual waste audited started in 2007
 - Also serves as an educational opportunity
- Originally designed by Stacey Wheeler
 - Stacey Wheeler also helped design and launch RecycleMania
- Collaborative event by nature
 - Academics – conducts the audit
 - Operations – coordinates trash collection
 - Student Affairs – helps with student volunteers

Garbage on the Green

Three components of Garbage on the Green

1. Record examination
2. Facility walkthrough
3. Waste audit

Garbage on the Green

2014 Summary Report



*Prepared by:
The UNF Environmental Center
Jacksonville, FL November 2014*



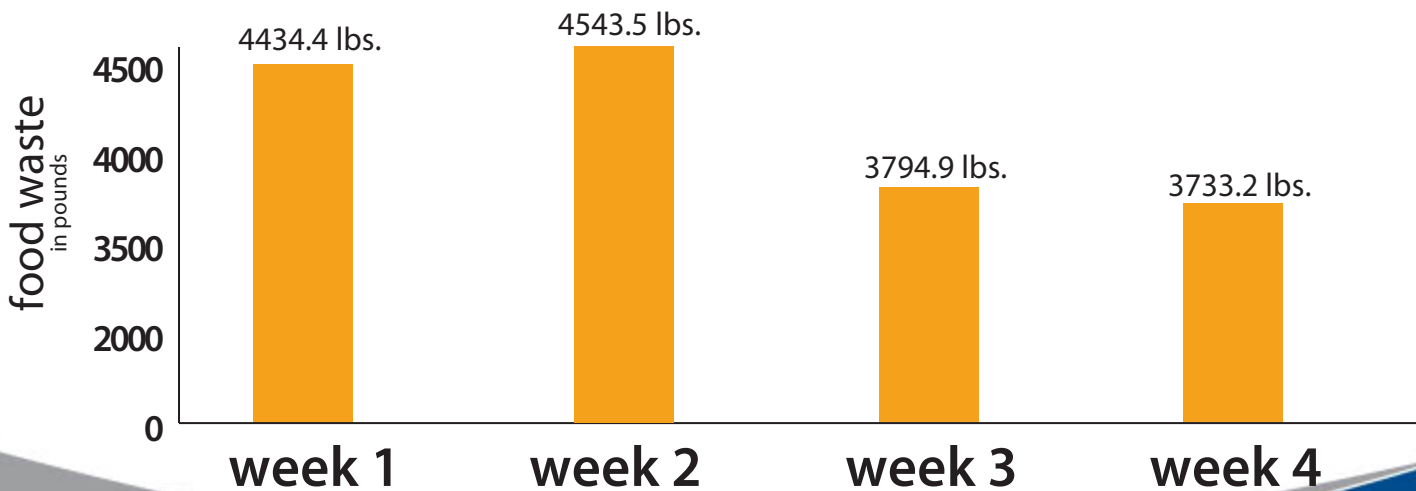
Hydration Stations

- 3 Units installed in Student Wellness Complex
 - Over 300,000 water bottles since 2012
- Sustainability Committee is installing 18 more units
 - Funding provided by Pepsi Co. and Environmental Center



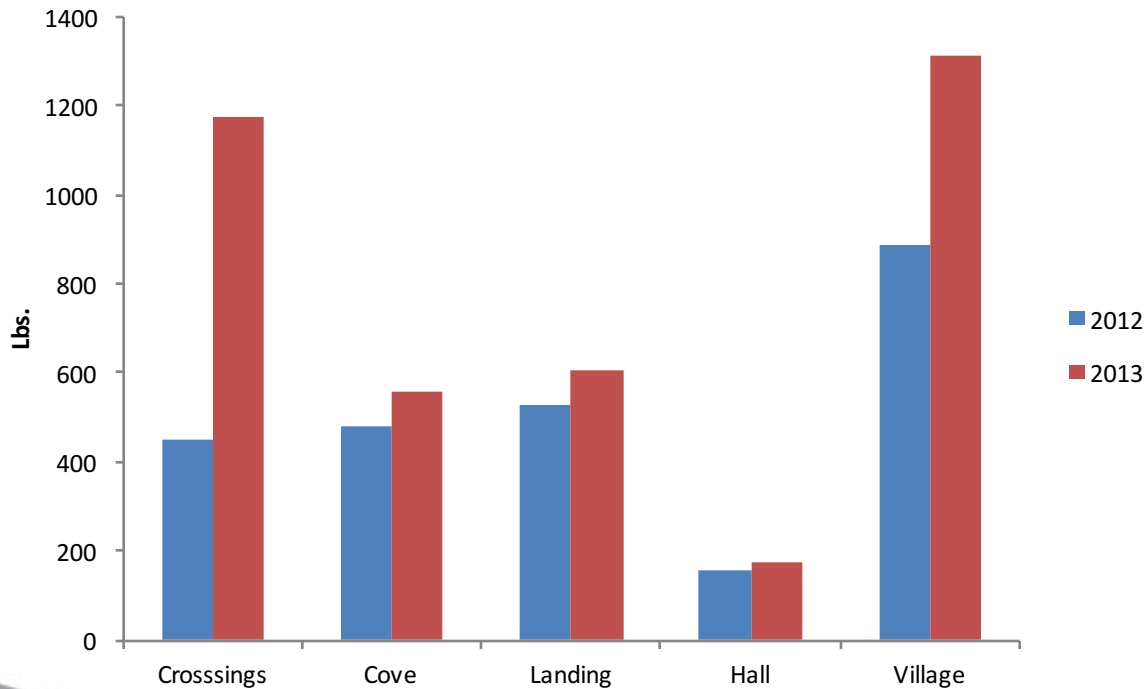
Project Clean Plate

We reduced food waste by 16%



Recycling at Housing

RecycleMania 2012 vs. 2013 Total Weight



UNF's Next Steps for Reaching 75%

- **Expand data collection efforts!**
- Institute composting and food recovery programs
- Address lack of classroom recycling
- Special event waste reduction and recycling
- Improve move-out collection and reporting
- Expand electronic waste recycling